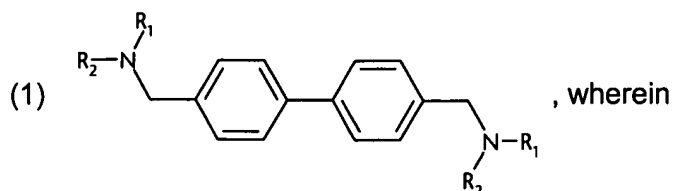


1. (currently amended): An alkylbenzylamine of formula



$R_1$  is hydrogen;  $C_1$ - $C_{18}$ alkyl; trifluoromethyl;  $C_3$ - $C_8$ cycloalkyl; phenyl- $C_1$ - $C_5$ alkyl; phenyl- $C_1$ - $C_5$ alkoxy; mono- or di-N- $C_1$ - $C_5$ alkylamino- $C_1$ - $C_5$ alkyl; amino-mono- or di-N- $C_1$ - $C_5$ alkylamino- $C_1$ - $C_5$ alkyl; or  $C_1$ - $C_5$ alkoxy- $C_1$ - $C_5$ alkyl;

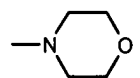
$R_2$  is  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$ alkyl; hydroxy- $C_1$ - $C_{20}$ alkyl; phenyl; phenyl- $C_1$ - $C_5$ alkyl; phenyl- $C_1$ - $C_5$ alkoxy; mono- or di-N- $C_1$ - $C_5$ alkylamino- $C_1$ - $C_5$ alkyl; amino-mono- or -di-N- $C_1$ - $C_5$ alkylamino- $C_1$ - $C_5$ alkyl; or heteroaryl- $C_1$ - $C_5$ alkyl; or

$R_1$  and  $R_2$  together with the nitrogen atom bonding them form a 5- to 7-membered monocyclic heterocyclic ring;

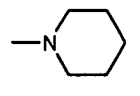
with the proviso that compounds of formula (1) are excluded wherein

- a.  $R_1$  is hydrogen; and  
 $R_2$  is butyl;
- b.  $R_1$  is hydrogen; and  
 $R_2$  is cyclohexyl;
- c.  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are butyl;
- d.  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are propyl;

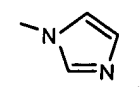
- e.  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  together form a monocyclic ring of the formula



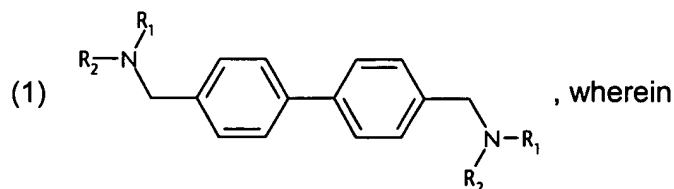
- f.  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  together form a monocyclic ring of the formula



- g.  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  together form a monocyclic ring of the formula



2. (currently amended): An alkylbenzylamine of formula



R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen; C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>alkyl; trifluoromethyl; C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>cycloalkyl; phenyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>alkyl; phenyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>alkoxy; mono- or di-N-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>alkylamino-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>alkyl; amino-di-N-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>alkylamino-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>alkyl; or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>alkoxy-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>alkyl;

R<sub>2</sub> is C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>alkyl; hydroxy-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>alkyl; phenyl; phenyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>alkyl; phenyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>alkoxy; mono- or di-N-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>alkylamino-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>alkyl; amino-di-N-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>alkylamino-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>alkyl; or heteroaryl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>alkyl; or

R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> together with the nitrogen atom bonding them form a 6- or 7-membered monocyclic heterocyclic aromatic ring.

3. (original): A compound according to claim 1, wherein

R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen; C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>alkyl; benzyl; or together with R<sub>2</sub> forms a 5- to 7-membered monocyclic heterocyclic ring.

4. (currently amended): A compound according to claim 1 ~~or 3~~, wherein

R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen.

5. (currently amended): A compound according to ~~any one of claims 1, 3 and 4~~ claim 1, wherein

R<sub>2</sub> is C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>alkyl; phenyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub>alkyl; hydroxy-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>alkyl; heteroaryl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub>alkyl; or together with R<sub>1</sub> forms a 5- to 7-membered monocyclic heterocyclic ring.

6. (currently amended): A compound according to ~~any one of claims 1 and 3 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein

R<sub>2</sub> is a branched C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>alkyl radical.

7. (original): A compound according to claim 6, wherein

R<sub>2</sub> is an isopropyl; isobutyl, tert-butyl; isohexyl; or isooctyl radical.

8. (original): A compound according to claim 5, wherein

R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen; and

R<sub>2</sub> is octyl.

9. (currently amended): A compound according to ~~any one of claims 1, 3 and 5 to 7~~ claim 1, wherein

R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> have the same meanings.

10. A compound according to claim 9, wherein

R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are linear C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>alkyl; or benzyl.

11. (original): A compound according to claim 1, wherein

R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen; or methyl; and

R<sub>2</sub> is C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>alkyl; or phenyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub>alkyl.

12. (cancelled).

13. (currently amended): ~~Use~~ A method of antimicrobial treatment of a surface, which comprises contacting said surface with an antimicrobially effective amount of a compound of formula (1) wherein

R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen; C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>alkyl; trifluoromethyl; C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>cycloalkyl; phenyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>alkyl; phenyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>alkoxy; mono- or di-N-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>alkylamino-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>alkyl; amino-di-N-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>alkylamino-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>alkyl; or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>alkoxy-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>alkyl;

R<sub>2</sub> is C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>alkyl; hydroxy-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>alkyl; phenyl; phenyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>alkyl; phenyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>alkoxy; mono- or di-N-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>alkylamino-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>alkyl; amino-di-N-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>alkylamino-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>alkyl; or heteroaryl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>alkyl; or

R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> together with the nitrogen atom bonding them form a 5- to 7-membered monocyclic heterocyclic ring;

~~in the antimicrobial treatment of surfaces.~~

14. (currently amended): ~~Use~~ A method according to claim 13, wherein the compound is used in the deodorisation and disinfection of the skin, mucosa ~~and~~ or hair.

15. (currently amended): ~~Use~~ A method according to claim 13, wherein the compound is used in the treatment of textile fibre materials.

16. (currently amended): ~~Use of a~~ A method according to claim 13, wherein the compound of formula (1) is used in the preservation and antimicrobial treatment of technical products.

17. (currently amended): ~~Use~~ A method according to claim 16, wherein the ~~compound is used for plastics~~ technical product is a plastic, paper, nonwovens, wood or leather.

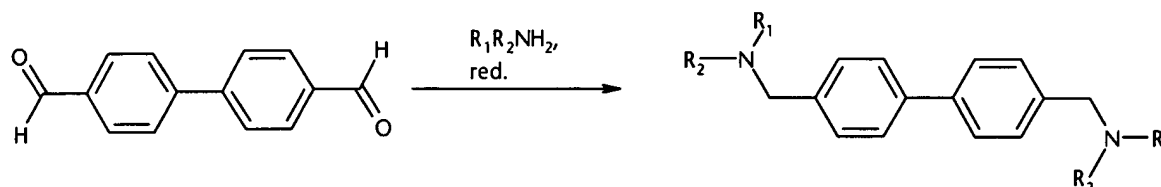
18. (currently amended): ~~Use of a~~ A method according to claim 13, wherein the compound of formula (1) is used as an antimicrobial active ingredient in washing and cleaning formulations.

19. (cancelled).

20. (currently amended): A personal care preparation, comprising from 0.01 to 15 % by weight, based on the total weight of the composition, of a compound of formula (1) according to claim 1, and cosmetically tolerable adjuvants.

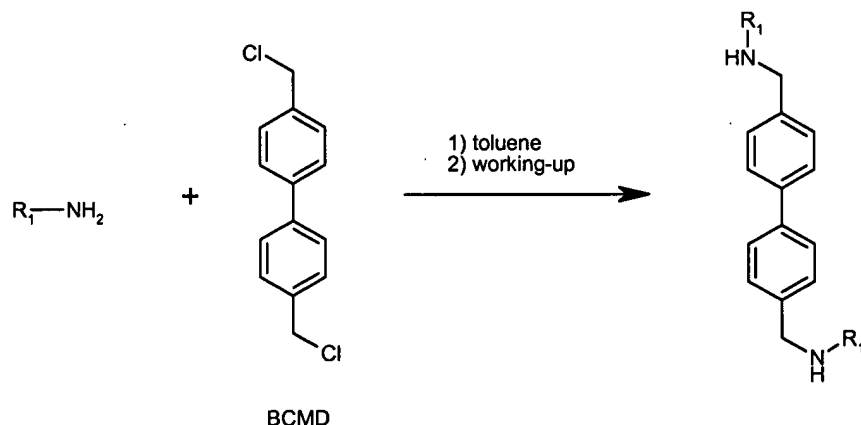
21. (currently amended): An oral composition, comprising from 0.01 to 15 % by weight, based on the total weight of the composition, of a compound of formula (1) according to claim 1, and orally tolerable adjuvants.

22. (currently amended): A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (1) according to claim 1, wherein it is prepared in accordance with the following scheme:



wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are as defined ~~for formula (1)~~ in claim 1.

23. (currently amended): A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (1) according to claim 1, wherein it is prepared in accordance with the following scheme:



wherein  $R_1$  is as defined ~~for formula (1)~~ in claim 1.